

# THE Saturday Magazine.

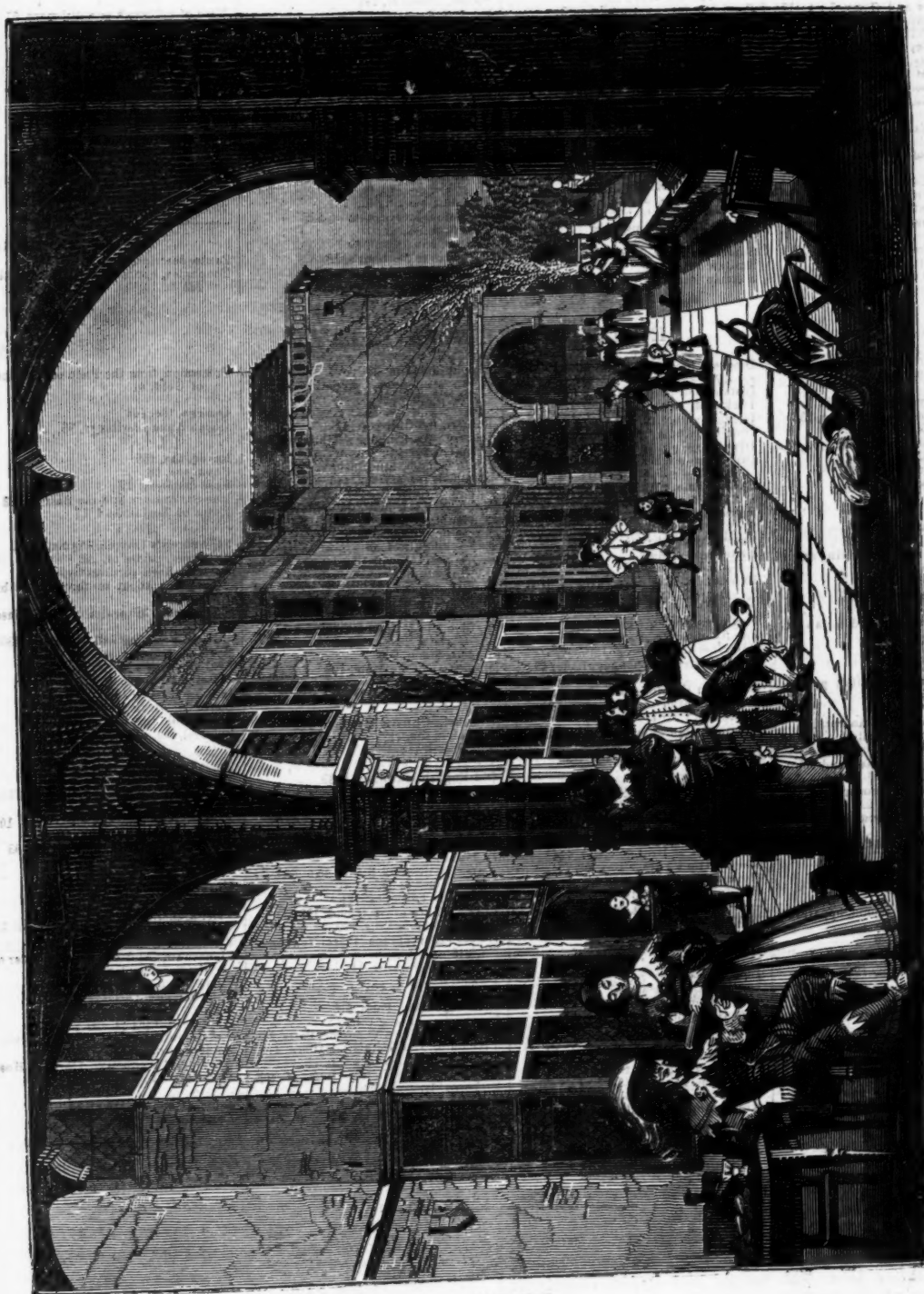
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BRAMSHILL, HANTS.

## BRAMSHILL IN HAMPSHIRE.

BRAMSHILL, the seat of Sir John Cope, Bart., is a large and ancient mansion situated in the north-east part of the county of Hampshire, a little removed from the high road leading from London to Winchester. Being built on a bold eminence in a spacious park it presents a very commanding and attractive appearance. Large as it is at present, it forms but the central part of the building originally designed; indeed there is a plainness and abruptness about the ends which seem to show that the mansion was not intended to be comprised within its present limits.

This building is erected in the peculiar style that marked the reign of James the First, in whose reign it was built; and as there have been no attempts to "modernize it," it still remains nearly in the same state as it was centuries back, and serves as a type of the prevailing national taste of architecture at the time of its erection, when much of our old Gothic manner was retained, with some Italian improvements then newly introduced. Although the whole edifice as at present existing forms but the central portion of the building originally designed, yet the centre itself has wings, one on each side of the entrance. The wings, or projecting extremities, are rather plain, and are constructed of brick, excepting that the numerous windows have stone dressings. The central portion is built wholly of stone, and is very profusely decorated. The portal leads to a vestibule or corridor of three divisions, enriched with an open carved parapet. The very elaborate ornaments which decorate the exterior of part of the building are a mixture of Grecian and Gothic; and the whole centre is carried up in rich compartments with pilasters from story to story, and surmounted by a pediment. From the pediment is continued a balustrade, perforated in quatrefoils. The interior of this noble mansion presents a suite of splendid apartments, fully equal to the wants of a noble or wealthy family.

Bramshill was built for the highly accomplished and amiable Henry Frederick, Prince of Wales, the eldest son of King James the First; and his coronet still surmounts the pediment in the middle of the building. But it appears never to have been inhabited by the prince. The earliest occupant of whom we have a distinct account was Edward, eleventh Lord Zouch, of whom the following incident is related. Archbishop Abbott, who used to go into Hampshire, in the summer, for the sake of recreation, was invited by Lord Zouch to hunt in his park at Bramshill, when he accidentally killed that nobleman's game-keeper, by an arrow from a cross-bow, which he shot at one of the deer. This accident threw the archbishop into a deep melancholy, and he ever afterwards kept a monthly fast, on Tuesday, the day on which this fatal accident happened: he also settled an annuity of twenty pounds per annum on the widow of the unfortunate man.

In 1625 the Lord Zouch just alluded to died; and it was probably of this nobleman that Fuller spoke, in his *English Worthies*, when he says:—"Next Basing, *Bramsell*, built by the last Lord Zouch, in a bleak and barren place, was a stately structure, especially before part thereof was defaced with a casual fire." How much damage this fire occasioned, we have no means of knowing. In 1673, Bramshill was the residence of Sir Andrew Henley, Bart. After this, but we do not know exactly at what period, Bramshill came into the possession of the family of Cope, one of the members of which built Holland House Kensington, now the seat of

Lord Holland. In the latter part of the last century Bramshill was the residence of the Rev. Sir Richard Cope, B.D., Bart., and is now occupied by Sir John Cope, Bart.

Mr. Nash, in his "*Mansions of England in the Olden Time*," has given two representations of Bramshill. In one is the porch, which presents a superb example of the curious admixture of styles in the Architecture of the reign of James the First. In the other the terrace is represented, occupied by a company of guests attired in the fashion of Charles the First's time, and playing at the now almost obsolete game of bowls. The terrace is formed by a recess extending along the south side of the mansion, with arcades under the projecting wings, at each end, and is a beautiful feature of the edifice, giving it a stately air of grandeur.

These details will be sufficient to convey to the reader a general idea of Bramshill; but the characteristic introduction, by Mr. Nash, of a party playing at the once fashionable game of bowls, on the terrace of Bramshill, will furnish us with an opportunity to give a slight sketch of that game.

The game of bowls consisted of hurling or rather bowling a ball on a smooth flat surface, each player endeavouring to obtain a certain object, of which we shall presently speak. Strutt was able to trace back the existence, or rather practice, of this game to the thirteenth century. In a MS. of that century, in the Royal Library, is a drawing in which are represented two small cones placed upright at a distance from one another, and the business of the player seems to be to bowl at them alternately; the successful candidate being he who could lay his bowl nearest to the mark. In another MS. of the next following century is a representation of three persons playing at bowls: they appear to have a small bowl, or *jack*, which serves as a mark for the direction of the bowls.

A flat and smooth plot of grass is the favourite site for this amusement; or else a flat piece of ground without grass, where the latter could not easily be procured. Until the latter end of last century *bowling-greens* were to be found in most country towns of any note, and there were many in the vicinity of the metropolis. But as bowling greens were, to a certain extent, public places, and as this game was at one time a favorite sport among the higher classes, it was naturally to be expected that more private spots would be selected by those who were able to pay for them. This led to the construction of *bowling-alleys*, which, being covered over, might be used when the weather would not permit the pursuit of the pastime in the open air. Ladies were frequent spectators of the sports carried on in these bowling-alleys. In an old ballad or poem called "*The Squire of low degree*," one of the characters, a king of Hungary, promises his daughter that, for her amusement,

An hundredth knights, truly tolde,  
Shall play with bowles in alayes colde.

As these bowling-alleys occupied but little room, they became, in time, attached to many places of public resort in and near the metropolis; and general complaints were made, in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, of the demoralizing effects too frequently produced thereby: the bowling-alleys became the resort of idle and dissolute characters, and were the means of promoting a pernicious spirit of gambling among the younger and most unwary part of the community.

In playing the game of bowls, the players divide themselves into opposite parties. Each player has two bowls, numbered or marked so that he may know them from those of his opponent. The first

player throws a small bowl or *jack*, to a distance of twenty or thirty yards: this is to serve as a mark. He then rolls one of his balls as near to the mark as he can: a second player follows, and endeavours to approach the jack nearer than his predecessor. All the other players follow in their turn; or if there are only two, they bowl alternately, until all the bowls are bowled out. As the game advances, there are four objects held in view, to one or other of which the player directs his attention, according to the circumstances of the case: 1st, to place his ball as near the jack as he can: 2nd, to drive away the ball of the adverse player, when it lies between the jack and one of his own: 3rd, to shield, with his ball, one of the other balls of his own party, in order to prevent it from being driven away by that of an adverse player: 4th, to strike the jack itself, so as to bring it nearer to a ball previously thrown by one of his party. When all the bowls are thrown, that one which is nearest to the jack counts one point, or if the same party has two bowls nearer than any one thrown by the opposite party, he reckons two points. A certain number of points, generally five, constitute the game. When the game is played in a bowling-alley instead of a bowling-green, there is a block or mark placed at each extremity of the alley, at which the bowls are directed.

Such is the nature of the game of bowls. An old writer has described it as "a pastime in which a man shall find great art in choosing out his ground, and preventing the winding, hanging, and many turning advantages of the same, whether it be in open, wilde places, or in close allies; and for this sport, the chusing of the bowle is the greatest cunning; your flat bowles being the best for allies, your round byazed bowles for open grounds of advantage, and your round bowles, like a ball, for green swarthes that are plain and level."

There are technical terms used in the game, to indicate the kind and merit of the throw, &c. But these we need not explain; and we only mention the circumstance here to account for some of the words in an old poem or address to the game of bowls, called *A Parallel betwixt Bowling and Preferment*, contained in one of the Harleian MSS. In these three stanzas, the word in italics are, or were, used in the game of bowls.

Preferment, like a game at boules,  
To feede our hope, hath divers play:  
Heere quick it runns, there soft it roules;  
The betters make and show the waye  
On upper ground, so great allies  
Doe many *cast* on their desire;  
Some up are thrust and forced to rise,  
When those are stopt that would aspire.

Some whose heate and zeal exceed,  
Thrive well by *rubbs* that curb their haste,  
And some that languish in their speed  
Are cherished by some favour's blaste:  
Some rest in others *cutting out*  
The same by whom themselves are made;  
Some fetch a compass far about,  
And secretly the marke invade.

Some get by *knocks*, and so advance,  
Their fortune by a boysterous aime;  
And some, who have the sweetest chance,  
Their en'mies *hit*, and win the game.  
The fairest *casts* are those that owe  
No thanks to fortune's giddy sway;  
Such honest men good bowlers are  
Whose own true *bias* cuts the way.

But bowls may now be almost reckoned as a game of other days. It was a game for princes and nobles two centuries ago: when given up by them, it was still patronized by the middle and humble classes;

but other employments and other games,—the former more intellectual, and the latter more athletic,—have almost superseded it at the present day.

### THE FORCE OF EXAMPLE.

EVERY man will admit that example is better than precept, most men also are well convinced of the great efficacy of example over the manners and morals of society, throughout its whole system of connections and dependencies.

But there are few perhaps who see the full extent of the obligation such an admission, or such a conviction, carries home. It may perhaps be said to be the most important of those truths, which a man should take everywhere about with him, in the manner of those useful editions of works, which are called "pocket editions." In every moment of doubt as to the propriety of this or that action, in the daily occurrences of his life, let this conviction be ever present, warning him of the possible influences which it may exercise over the society with which he is connected, and whether such influences will be to their advantage, or otherwise, since he becomes in this sense the author of good or evil to a great portion or perhaps the whole of the circle, of which he forms a part. The more elevated his station—the more prominent his position, the greater the extent, and more powerful becomes the influence, of his example. Inferiors ever ape the manners, and too often the morals, of those above them. The lady's maid ever imitates the worst part of her mistress's character—its foibles and its more serious faults. My lord's gentleman is too often the fac-simile of my lord, in the least amiable part of his character. It is a fatal tendency in human nature, to be sooner affected by the allurements of vice than the attractions of virtue, and hence we can easily perceive how necessary it must be to strengthen the latter, by all the weight and authority that high station and prominent positions in life, can give to the force of example.

But every man in this world has a certain sphere of action, from which he must necessarily borrow much of example, but which also he has the power of stimulating to improvement by his own, especially in those many instances where a man's conduct is always left to the direction of his own good sense and judgment; let him pause therefore and look round the world, and observe the paramount authority of precedent, in all its doubts and difficulties. Let him consider then that every action which he performs will in all probability, directly or indirectly, become a precedent for others, who either know and associate with him, or look up to him, perhaps as a guide or a master.

Therefore when we attentively consider this subject, will it be asserting too much to say, that every individual in the great world around us, however humble his station and circumstances, may, if he chooses, become important and accessory to the promotion of general improvement, and therefore to the best interests of his fellow men, and that nothing is more necessary to one who would conduce to this end, than to consider the possible influence of his own example, in apparently the most trivial actions of a life in which nothing is lost, and in which some of the greatest of errors and the most brilliant displays of virtue, may without doubt be attributed to the force of example.

If we would converse pleasingly, we must endeavour to set others at ease, and it is not by flattery that we can succeed in doing so, but by a courteous and kind address.—MRS. SANDFORD.



## GEMS AND PRECIOUS STONES.

## I.

Th' unfruitful rock itself, impregn'd by thee,  
 In dark retirement forms the lucid stone:  
 The lively diamond drinks thy purest rays,  
 Collected light, compact.  
 At thee the ruby lights its deepening glow,  
 And with a waving radiance inward flames.  
 From thee the sapphire, solid ether, takes  
 Its hue cerulean; and of evening tinct,  
 The purple streaming amethyst is thine.  
 With thy own smile the yellow topaz burns.  
 Nor deeper verdure dyes the robe of spring  
 When first she gives it to the southern gale  
 Than the green emerald shows. But, all combined,  
 Thick through the whitening opal play thy beams;  
 Or, flying several from its surface, form  
 A trembling variance of revolving hues  
 As the site varies in the gazer's hand.—THOMSON.

THE rare and beautiful productions of the mineral kingdom thus described by the poet are well deserving our attentive consideration. The vegetable world displays a multitude of beauteous forms richly arrayed in every variety of colour, and widely diffused throughout all lands. These invite our attention at every step, charming us with their loveliness and infinite diversity of appearance. They spring up on the surface of the earth, flourish for awhile, and then wither away. The sense of pleasure they afford is, like their own existence, an evanescent one, and the ease with which they may be obtained tends to make us less observant of their wondrous and delicate structure.

Gems may be called the flowers of the mineral world, for they exhibit greater brilliancy of colouring than any other production of the kingdom to which they belong and yet the sparkling beauties of many of them may rather remind us of the dew-drop on the flower than of the flower itself. Unlike our vegetable treasures they do not readily present themselves to the eye and hand to be plucked without trouble or difficulty. They are not to be discovered without much persevering toil, nor to be extracted from their hiding place, deep in the solid rock, without the exercise of patient skill and industry. An experienced eye is also wanting to distinguish them from the commonest pebbles; for their beauties are hidden by a dull rough covering which requires to be ground away with much care, to the form most favourable for displaying the brilliancy of the gem and for receiving that exquisite polish which enables it to reflect, refract, and otherwise modify the light in so extraordinary a manner. Precious stones are the hardest bodies in nature or art; consequently the labour and perseverance required in working them are immense, and the unremitting labour of years is frequently employed to grind a rough diamond into its best form. The difficulty thus experienced, together with the great scarcity of gems, renders them extremely valuable: indeed of all the known articles they contain the greatest value within the smallest bulk, so that a diamond or a ruby, not larger than a nut, may be sold for a sum equal to a princely fortune.

From the various names applied by the ancients to these bodies, it is often difficult to ascertain what particular stone is meant; for they had no better mode of distinguishing them than by comparing their several colours and markings, and noting their peculiar lustre or scarcity. Thus they often called the same stone by many different names, on account of the presence or absence of spots, veins, &c., or by the number and position of such markings. Every transparent blue stone they called a *sapphire*, and the name of *adamas* or loadstone was given, by them, both

to the diamond and to the natural magnet, on the supposition that they were in fact the same substance, Pliny describes and blends the properties of the diamond with the loadstone, except where they were too manifestly opposed to each other to admit of such a combination. He nevertheless attempts to distinguish false from real gems, by a reference to their mechanical properties, and speaks of the electric property possessed by some stones of attracting light bodies when rubbed; for instance, he mentions that he found carbuncles, some of a purple colour, others red, which heated by the sun attracted straw and paper shavings.

Many superstitious accounts are handed down to us from the ancients, of the extraordinary power of gems in effecting the cure of diseases, preventing the occurrence of accidents, &c.: nor is it to be wondered at that such virtues were attributed to these precious substances, at a period when every thing that was rare, or highly esteemed, obtained the credit of working beneficial results, if worn as an amulet, or taken as a medicine.

All the treatises containing accounts of gems, from that of St. Epiphanius, to that of the eminent Boyle, are devoted either to an explanation of the nature of the twelve jewels in the breast-plate of the Jewish High Priest, or to the praise of the medical virtues of electuaries, confections, &c., made of gems. Boyle has a learned treatise on the origin and virtues of gems; and he was about the last writer on this subject, for the advancing state of science soon proved the fallacy of such views. Even supposing some of the precious stones to have possessed medicinal virtues, the ignorance of the ancients would have rendered them, in their case ineffectual. *Lapis lazuli* was said to be endowed with wonderful properties, and yet we read of the sudden death of many to whom a dose of it was administered. From the mention of the places in which the so-called *lapis lazuli* was found, there is no doubt but that blue carbonate of copper, which is a deadly poison, was mistaken for the true stone.

The term GEMS has been applied to such mineral bodies as are remarkable above all others for their hardness, transparency, beauty of polish, or of colour, durability, scarcity, and value; but it is extremely difficult to decide what precious stones or jewels possess all the above properties, in a sufficient degree, to entitle them to the name of gems, or in other words it is very difficult to distinguish between a gem and a precious stone. All mineral bodies however which are transparent or semi-transparent, whose specific gravity is greater than *three*, that of water being *one*, and which are harder than quartz or rock-crystal, and incapable of being scratched by them, may safely be called gems, together with a few others, whose rarity or beauty prevents them from being excluded, though they scarcely come up to the degree of hardness just stated.

Gems cannot be made to form a distinct mineral class, since in composition and properties they differ so much from each other as to be widely separated in natural methods of classification, accordingly we do not find them placed by themselves, in either of the systems of mineralogical arrangements now in general use, namely, those of Werner and Häuy. Daubenton classified them according to their *colour*, but this, though the most palpable mode, is one of the worst which could have been conceived, for so far is it from being constant in one kind of stone, that almost every variety of colour is found in substances whose properties are essentially the same; this is especially the case with the sapphire and topaz.

The nomenclature of the ancients, with regard to their precious stones, was, as we have before stated, exceedingly confused, and when a better distinction than that of mere colour was established, a new arrangement of names also became necessary. This was in part effected; but the retention of many of the old names, and the manner in which they are applied by various authors, still occasion much confusion on the subject.

Adhering strictly to the definition of gems given above, we may reckon the following as stones which distinctly merit the appellation. 1. The DIAMOND; 2. The SAPPHIRE; the oriental RUBY, oriental AMETHYST, oriental TOPAZ, and oriental EMERALD; for all these are really the same mineral differently coloured. 3. The CHRYSOBERYL, which has also many other names. 4. The SPINELLE, or BALLAS RUBY. 5. The ZIRCON JARGON, or HYACINTH, though this latter name is applied to several other gems. 6. The proper or occidental TOPAZ, which is of many colours, and has received many names. 7. The EMERALD and BERYL. 8. The GARNET. 9. QUARTZ, the different coloured varieties of which are distinguished as *Amethyst*, *Prase* or *Chrysoprase*, *Onyx*, *Sardonyx*, *Calcedony*, *Cornelian*, &c.

We purpose to give, in a short course of articles, a description of each of these gems, together with a notice of such bodies, as have (though inferior in hardness to quartz,) been ranked among gems by universal consent. We will then briefly consider the ingenious modes which have been adopted in the fabrication of what are called ARTIFICIAL GEMS. We will then enter into some details respecting the curious art of the LAPIDARY; after which we will conclude our subject with a notice of the GLYPHIC art, or the art of SEAL-ENGRAVING.

#### SPANISH SHEEP DOGS.

THE shepherds of Mont Perdu, in Arragon, are particularly careful of their flocks, whose docility is remarkable. Not less so is the good understanding subsisting between the sheep and the dogs. The celerity with which the shepherds of the Pyrenees draw their scattered flocks around them is not more astonishing than the process by which they effect it is simple and beautiful. If they are at no great distance from him he whistles upon them, and they leave off feeding and obey the call; if they are afar off and scattered, he utters a shrill cry, and instantly the flock are seen leaping down the rocks and scampering towards him. Having waited until they have mustered round him, the shepherd then sets off on his return to his cabin or resting place, his flock following him behind like so many well trained hounds. Their fine-looking dogs, a couple of which are generally attached to each flock, have nobler duties to perform than that of chasing the flock together and biting the legs of stragglers: they protect it from the attacks of the wolves and bears, against whose approach they are continually on the watch, and to whom they at once offer battle. So well aware are the sheep of the fatherly care of these dogs, and that they themselves have nothing to fear from them, that they crowd around them, as if they really sought their protection: and dogs and sheep may be seen resting together, or trotting after the shepherd in the most perfect harmony.—MURRAY, *Summer in the Pyrenees*.

THERE are few things so exhilarating to the spirits, especially in the season of ardent and buoyant youth, as the first visit to a foreign land. Amongst things purely pleasurable, it is perhaps one of the most unalloyed gratifications which occur in the course of our life. But, like all other pleasures, it may be made, accordingly as we use it, a source of present vanity and future regret, or, on the other hand, of lasting and solid improvement. Our object should be, not to gratify curiosity, and seek mere temporary amusement, but to learn and to venerate,—to improve the heart and understanding.—GRESLEY.

#### ACCOUNT OF A REMARKABLE PERSIAN IDOL.



PERSIA may be deemed in many respects rather a country of the dead than of the living; for everywhere are scattered the remnants of other days, showing the existence of a more flourishing state of the nation than that which now exists. But if we may judge from the bas-reliefs and other monuments of antiquity which still survive the lapse of ages, a state of religious belief formerly existed of as degrading a character as that which now holds a superstitious people in ignorance. It seems probable that the bas-relief represented above is connected in some way with the ancient religion of the country, though to what degree is uncertain. We will, however, shortly describe the spot from whence it is copied, and state the views respecting it of one of our most intelligent modern travellers.

At about two hundred miles south-east of the city of Ispahan, the capital of Persia, is a plain called *Mourgaub*, the supposed site of the ancient city of *Pasargadæ*; and over this plain are scattered numerous remains of ancient buildings, such as altars, temples, tombs, &c. At one part of this plain Sir Robert Ker Porter found a spacious marble platform, about a hundred feet square, at the corners of which are four pillars. Each of these pillars seems to have been composed of three stones, surmounted by a kind of cornice; and to have been originally about fifteen feet in height. The north-eastern side of these pillars is hollowed out into a concave form, and on the opposite side of each pillar is an inscription near the top. In the middle of the area or platform marked out by these four pillars, is a much larger one, evidently the most important part of the whole. It is a perfectly round column, as smooth as if it were polished: the length of the shaft is not much less than fifty feet, but the lower part of it is totally buried in the surrounding rubbish: it is composed of four pieces of marble, the lowest of which occupies nearly one half of the entire height. Sir Robert Ker Porter could not find any vestiges of a wall connecting the four corners of the platform; and he con-

cluded that, whatever might have been the nature of the building, it was open to the sky, and unprotected from the surrounding country.

At some little distance from this is the block of marble containing the bas-relief represented in our cut; and we have given the description contained in the preceeding paragraph, in order to explain the probable nature of this isolated stone. It appears to have been in the centre of a rectangular platform, as is likewise the round column just described; but this second platform appears to have been of larger dimensions. The ruins which mark its boundary show it to have been a hundred and fifty feet long, by eighty-one broad. There are two rows of pedestals, each composed of four stones, of a dark kind of rock found in Persia: they measure from three to four feet in every direction, and our traveller supposes that the largest were to support an elevated floor, while the smallest were intended to sustain columns. One only of the bases is formed of white marble, and is about six feet square: it was probably intended to support the image of the deity of the temple, supposing this to have been the true character of the spot.

At a few feet distant from one side of this platform is an isolated stone, consisting of a block of marble about fifteen feet high, and on one surface of this block is the bas-relief to which we allude. Sir Robert Ker Porter examined this with great minuteness, and describes it fully. The bas-relief consists of the figure of a man, clothed in a long garment which fits rather closely to the body, and reaches from the neck to the ankles. His right arm is put forward, half raised from the elbow; and, as far as can be judged from the mutilated state of its extremity, the hand is open and elevated. The head is covered with a cap, close to the skull, reaching behind almost to the neck, and showing a small portion of hair beneath it. There is a circle just over the ear; and three lines marked down the back of the head seem to indicate braidings. His beard is short, bushy, and curled with great regularity; but the face is so much broken that the contour only of it can be distinctly traced. From the bend of the arm to the bottom of the garment, runs a border of roses, carved in a very beautiful style; from which flows a waving fringe extending round the skirt of the dress: the whole being executed with great precision. From the shoulders issue four large wings; two spreading on each side, reach high above the head; the others open downwards, and nearly touch the feet. The chiselling of the feathers is exquisite, and constitutes, in some respects, the most remarkable feature of the production. From the crown of the head project two large horns, supporting a row of three balls or circles, within which are seen smaller ones. Three vessels, shaped somewhat like decanters, rest upon these balls, and are surmounted by three other balls. On each side of these, stand two small creatures resembling mummies of the Ibis, but bent at the lower extremity. The figure from head to foot is about seven feet in height: he stands on a sort of pedestal about two feet from the ground; and above his head, on the block of marble is an inscription in arrow-headed characters\*. This inscription is too minute to be introduced into our cut.

The pillar on which this figure has been sculptured has a deep concavity running from top to bottom on the side opposite to that which is sculptured, the object of which does not easily appear. The pillar has

suffered much in various parts, but that which contains the figure is in tolerably good preservation.

Sir Robert Ker Porter conjectures that, from the peculiar appearance of this figure,—its vast quadruple wings,—its long and richly decorated robe,—the horns on the head, which have long been held as a type of regal strength in the East, and the numerous symbols resting on the horns,—it probably represents a superior spirit, perhaps the tutelary genius of the country in general. He farther observes, that, with the exception of the mitre, or symbolical head covering, "there is nothing I have ever seen or read of which bears so strong a resemblance to the whole of the figure on the pillar, as the ministering or guardian angels, described under the name of seraphim or cherubim, by the different writers in the Bible; and, if we are to ascribe these erections to Cyrus, how readily may he have found the model of his genii, either in the spoil of the temple of Jerusalem, which he saw among the treasures at Babylon, or from the Jewish descriptions, in the very word of prophecy which mentions him by name; and which, doubtless, would be in the possession of Daniel, and open to the eye of the monarch to whom it so immediately referred." The passages in the Bible from whence a comparison may be drawn between what are called cherubims and seraphims, and the figure described by Sir Robert Ker Porter, are chiefly the following:—

Exodus xxv. 18, 20. "And thou shalt make two cherubims of gold, of beaten work shalt thou make them, in the two ends of the mercy-seat. And the cherubims shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the mercy-seat with their wings, and their faces shall look one to another; toward the mercy-seat shall the faces of the cherubims be."

1 Kings vi. 23-27. "And within the oracle, he made two cherubims of olive tree, each ten cubits high. And five cubits was the one wing of the cherub, and five cubits the other wing of the cherub: from the uttermost part of the one wing unto the uttermost part of the other, were ten cubits. And the other cherub was ten cubits, and so was it of the other cherub. And he set the cherubims within the inner house; and they stretched forth the wings of the cherubims, so that the wing of the one touched the one wall, and the wing of the other cherub touched the other wall."

2 Chronicles iii. 13. "The wings of these cherubims spread themselves forth twenty cubits; and they stood on their feet, and their faces were inward."

Isaiah. vi. 1, 2. "In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings: with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly."

If the supposition of Sir Robert Ker Porter be correct, it forms a curious instance of the manner in which the outward symbols of one form of religion came to be adopted by a people, the spirit of whose religion was so very different; for the religion of Persia was, as may be supposed, a species of paganism. Cherubim, among the Jews, were only *symbols*; but the sculptured figures of the ancient Persians were in all probability idols; and the reader will bear in mind the vast difference between the two terms.

It was a clumsy and cruel contrivance of the Romans to use hedge-hogs for clothes-brushes, and prepare them for it, by starving them to death; our method of sweeping chimneys is not more ingenious, and little less inhuman.

SOUTHEY.

\* The term *cuneiform*, or *arrowheaded*, is applied to the character in which inscriptions are written on many antique remains in Persia. It is supposed to have been a written language used in Persia between the times of Cyrus and of Alexander.



## NATURAL HISTORY OF THE MONTHS.

## VII. JULY.

THEN came hot July, boiling like to fire,  
That all his garments he had cast away.  
Upon a lion raging yet with ire  
He boldly rode, and made him to obey:  
(It was the beast that whilom did forray  
The Nemean forest, till the Amphitronide  
Him slew, and with his hide did him array:)  
Behind his backe a sithe, and by his side  
Under his belt he bore a sickle circling wide.—SPENCER.

THE season which we have been so long anticipating is now fairly arrived: summer is come among us, and the warmest and richest part of the year is felt and seen to be present with us. The direct influence of the sun gradually diminishes from the period of the summer solstice, yet the earth and air have been so thoroughly heated during the spring months, that the diminution of solar influence is more than compensated.

July was originally the fifth month of the year; it continued thirty-six days, and was called by the Romans, on account of its numerical station, *Quintilis*. Its name was altered by Mark Antony to *Julius*, the gentile name of Caius Cæsar, the dictator, who was born in it. The number of days in this month was reduced by Romulus to thirty-one, by Numa to thirty, and was again restored to thirty-one at the regulation of the calendar by Julius Cæsar. Our Anglo-Saxon ancestors called this month *Mædmonath*, from the meads being in their bloom, and *Hay-monath*, from the business of hay-making, which occupies the early part of July, and in northern districts is the chief employment at the close of the month.

The great proportion of our meadows, however, is cleared by the mower's scythe, and instead of the richly variegated crop they before exhibited, are now beginning to shine anew in the livery of emerald green. The hills and plains meanwhile are changing their spring attire for the more sober hues of the ripening year. The yellow rye is already looking fit for the sickle; wheat and barley fields present a surface that is daily becoming more monotonous and more distinctly embrowned, and which, towards the end of the month, seems nearly ready for the command, "Thrust in the sickle, and reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe;" the whitening ears of the oats are quivering to the least breath of air; the broad leaves of the turnip clothe a portion of the land with a mantle of rich dark green; and here and there, throughout the landscape, starting up amid the corn, and intruding painfully on the farmer's sight, may be seen the brilliant scarlet poppy, the gay blue-bottle, and other gaudy weeds, diversifying indeed the monotony of the scene, but affording no pleasing indication to the cultivators of the soil.

The foliage of our woods and groves has now become darker in its hue, and more impervious to the rays of the sun. In the short period of the summer, during which, in this climate, we feel the heat oppressive, how delightful is the shade afforded at mid-noon by broad umbrageous oaks or elms! how delightful the stillness—the peace which nature breathes! how soft and sweet the only sounds which break the quiet of such a scene:—

The ring-dove's plaint  
Moan'd from the twilight centre of the grove,  
While every other woodland lay is mute,  
Save when the wren flits from her down-coved nest,  
And from the root-sprigs trills her ditty clear,—  
The grasshopper's oft-pausing chirp—the buzz,  
Angrily shrill, of moss-entangled bee,  
That, soon as loosed, booms with full twang away,—

The sudden rushing of the minnow shoal,  
Scared from the shallows by the passing tread,  
Dimpling the water glides; with here and there  
A glossy fly, skimming in circlets gay  
The treacherous surface, while the quick-eyed trout  
Watches his time to spring.—GRAHAM.

While the animal creation is oppressed with languor, the insect tribes fully enjoy this noon-tide radiance; and while the flocks and herds seek shelter beneath the spreading trees, flies and gnats are disporting themselves in the sun-beams, and industrious bees are making the blossoms musical with their unceasing hum.

Though the increased temperature, together with the mower's scythe, has deprived us of many of the flowers of the preceding month, a new generation has sprung up to supply their place. Growing up amid rushes and the yellow water-iris, the beautiful willow-herb adorns the margin of the stream with its crimson blossoms; while reposing on the surface of the water, we sometimes see that most elegant of flowers, the white water-lily, beautiful when first budding among its undulating leaves, and still more beautiful when its snowy petals are half expanded, or fully opened to the sun. The hedgerow, though bereaved of its clusters of blossoming may, is still attractive with the wreaths and snowy flowers of the great bind-weed, twining intricately among the crowded branches, and with the feathery garlands of wild clematis, or traveller's joy. Beneath these gay festoons of blossom perchance the hollow fox-glove hangs its head, and the tall *mullein* shoots up its yellow lance, attractive to a host of beautiful moths that come out in the twilight to feed in its blossoms. There, too, the yellow or the white *galium* (bed-straw) bends its weak form, as if sinking beneath its myriad fairy flowers, and there hang the low, weeping, white flowers of enchanter's nightshade. In the corn-field, besides the corn-cockle, the corn-marigold or ox-eye, the blue-bottle, poppy, &c., there is many a beautiful little flower, such as the pimpernel, or poor man's weather-glass, that astonishes us with the brilliancy of its colour or the delicate touches which a close inspection enables us to discover in its tiny blossoms. In the green lanes and banks how many more of these beautiful productions arrest our notice, and how are our senses likewise regaled with the fine odour of the meadow-sweet, or the lingering perfume of the wood-bine. Here rise the elegant clusters of pink star-like flowers which distinguish the *centaury*, and the bristling fortress which protects the blossoms of the wild *teazle*, one of the most useful, and not the least beautiful productions of our hedges.

Now may be seen, gleaming out from the bright green grass of our lately-mown pastures, and nourished by the dews and mist that sometimes prevail during the early part of the day, the smooth-white surface of the valued mushroom, or of the larger and more remarkable production, called the puff-ball. The misty mornings, in which these fungi appear, generally follow those hasty and ample showers which sometimes come down in hot weather, drenching the earth with their sudden torrent, and leaving behind them, on their equally sudden departure, a scene of sparkling beauty and freshness truly delightful. The languid flowers that were bending beneath the fervid rays of the sun are indeed overloaded with moisture, and droop still lower than ever; but their leaves and roots drink in the welcome supply, and soon will the blossoms look up again in all their beauty. Every tree is sparkling with liquid gems, the air is cool and refreshing, and the sun shines out with more than his usual brilliancy. The landscape assumes a richer, livelier hue, and even the barren downs, which in hot

weather are almost without vegetation, look less forlorn. The wild thyme growing there gives out its sweet perfume, and the little blue campanula springs up among the scanty herbage. This elegant little flower, familiar to us all as the bell-flower, or harebell of Scotland, has been likened by the poet to the small azure butterflies that flutter on the heath, and in hue and delicacy of form there is certainly some resemblance between them. There is also an elasticity in its slender stalk which sets its drooping bells almost perpetually in motion, so that it has been happily imagined that the fairy queen is soothed on "night serene" with "faint sweet tones" of its "soft bells pealing." One can scarcely look at this simple flower without going back in thought to the days of childhood, and to early rambles over barren downs, which, by occasional patches of heath, and gorse, and wild thyme, and knots of harebells, were rendered interesting and delightful.

Thou art the flower of memory,  
The pensive soul recalls in thee  
The year's past pleasures;  
And, led by kindred thought, will flee  
Till back to careless infancy  
The path she measures.

In reviewing the floral treasures of this month, we must not forget that the flower-garden has now received a large accession, and that some of the plants, now in their beauty, are well deserving our attention. What can be more appropriate than the appearance of the jessamine at this season? The "deep dark green" of its unvarnished foliage is a relief to the eye, amid the glowing hues of summer, while the delicious odour of its star-like blossoms is equally refreshing to the sense of smell. The clematis, too, is welcome with its fragrant shade for our windows or portico, and the "syringa ivory pure." The tall white lilies breathe their delicate odour, and at their feet the many-coloured larkspurs, the gaudy nasturtium, the elegant convolvulus, the rich carnation, clove, and pink, and the peerless rose give to the parterre a most brilliant and varied effect.

The orchard and fruit garden now betoken the abundance of the future supply. As the heat becomes oppressive, we feel the value of such refreshment as is afforded us by the ripe strawberries, currants, gooseberries, and raspberries, now common. Apricots look temptingly on the sunny wall, but have not enough either of juice or of flavour to make them in high esteem. A few early sorts of apple are nearly ripe, and cherries begin to be gathered. The hop-grounds are now displaying their valuable productions. Hemp and flax are likewise approaching perfection, and will be pulled during the month. The manufacture of their tough fibres will soon give employment to multitudes of persons, and the transport of linen and cordage, and the appropriation of it to its several uses, to multitudes besides.

The heat of the weather drives the feathered songsters to the depth of shady woods and groves. The first broods of swallows now begin to congregate, and are ever on the wing in pursuit of insects. Thus they prepare themselves for the approaching time of migration, and, at the same time, are rendering us an essential service by their immense consumption of flies. Sheep and cattle now leave their sunny pastures, and feed principally in the cooler parts of the day; frogs migrate from the ponds to the covert of the high grass; ants leave their nests, and set about establishing new colonies, and bees are busily employed in expelling from their community the lazy drones. What lessons of prudence, industry, and

perseverance may be learned by considering the habits of ants and bees!

The refreshment of bathing is now both healthful and delightful, and as the time is short in which it can be safely used in this country, every opportunity should be taken which presents itself, and when it can no longer be practised in the open air, some substitute should be contrived within doors.

Bathing, (says Dr. Aikin,) is a delightful amusement at this season; and happy is the swimmer, who alone is able to enjoy the full pleasure of this healthful exercise. The power of habit to improve the natural faculties is in nothing more apparent than in the art of swimming. Man, without practice, is utterly unable to support himself in the water. In these northern countries the season for pleasant bathing being short, few in proportion can swim at all, and to those who have acquired the art, it is a laborious and fatiguing exercise. Whereas in the tropical countries, where from their very infancy both sexes are continually plunging into the water, they become a sort of amphibious creatures, swimming and diving with the utmost ease, and for hours together, without intermission.

When noticing those remarkable productions of this season, the mushroom and the puff-ball, we ought to have spoken of that kind called the subterraneous puff-ball, or *truffle*, so much esteemed as a luxury for the table. Truffles grow in clusters, three or four inches underground, without any visible root. When first dug up their outer skin is white, but it soon becomes blackish on exposure to the air. The smell of this production resembles hartshorn; its weight seldom exceeds three or four ounces. Truffles grow plentifully in Wiltshire, Hampshire, and Kent, and dogs are trained to hunt for them by the scent, and to scratch up the ground under which they lie.

The beginning of the dog-days is usually fixed in the calendars on the third of July, and their termination on the eleventh of August, as preceding and following the rising of Canicula, or the Dog-star; but it happens that this star does not now rise till the latter end of August, and therefore its influence in producing heat must be quite imaginary.

The heavy rains which so seasonably refresh the earth during the summer's drought are connected by the superstitious with a legend of Swithin, bishop of Winchester, whose story does not belong to our present subject, but whose influence in producing forty days' rain, after the 15th of July, is firmly believed in by the uninstructed and the credulous.

#### SONNET TO WORDSWORTH.

WORDSWORTH! great potentate of verse and song,  
Thou'lt grieve, and who so deep as poets mourn!  
Because another light\* is of its glory shorn,  
Amongst the noble and transcendent throng  
Of dazzling gem-stars, that of right belong  
To Charity's gold coronet!—Though worn  
Almost in twain be thy life's cord, and torn  
The page, wherein the brightest far among  
Ten thousand thousand hopes is doomed  
To languish 'neath the burden of disease;  
O be the evening of thy days unglomed  
By bodily sufferings, that torture and decrease  
The brightest functions of the mental sphere,  
The birth-place and the home of joys that never sere!

Penrith, Cumberland.

G. B.

\* Alluding to the death of the late lamented Countess of Lonsdale.

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